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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Bashkirskaya ASSR)

REPORT

SUBJECT 1. Reported Underground Plant near
Kyshtym

DATE DISTR. 18 July 1960

2. Information on Salavat (*Industrial
Installations + Prison Camps*)

NO. PAGES 1

REFERENCES RD

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DATE OF
INFO.PLACE &
DATE ACQ

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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1. [redacted] a plant comprising extensive underground installations was established in the Kyshtym area. The prisoners who were employed underground worked only four hours per day. [redacted] those who took employment at the plant after its completion acquired a yellow complexion and became invalids. These people were withdrawn from the plant and given light work within the closed zone where it was situated. On completing their terms of imprisonment, those who had been employed in the Kyshtym closed zone were forcibly exiled to Kolyma.

2. A seven-page report on Salavat /N 53-21, E 55-557/ [redacted] Briefly described are industrial installations, prison camps and prisoner treatment, and prison administrators. A 16-point legend and sketch are included.

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embassy attached

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COUNTRY:

USSR (Bashkirskaya ASSR)

18 July 60

SUBJECT:

*I. Prison Camps, Miscellaneous Information on
Salavat and its Vicinity*

II. Reported Underground Plant near Kyshtym

DATE OF INFO:

PLACE ACQUIRED:

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1. Salavat [N 53-21, E 55-52], a rayon center of the Bashkir ASSR, was situated on the railroad line connecting Ufa and Chkalov. It had a population of 60,000-70,000, two-thirds of whom were Bashkirs and the remainder Russians.

2. Salavat was an important center of the Bashkir oil industry. An oil combine (Neftianoy Kombinat), comprising three or four refineries, was located five or six kilometers west of the railroad tracks. A spur from the main rail line led to the refineries, and another track was recently constructed which branched off the main spur inside

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the refinery area. Employees of the combine traveled from Salavat to the refineries by trolley.

3. In 1953 a chemical combine was being constructed in the vicinity of the oil installations, on a site larger than that of the oil combine. [redacted]

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the project had not been completed in 1959, but some of its departments were scheduled to go into production within a year. The exact purpose of this enterprise was not known.

4. [redacted] the machine plant (Mekhanicheskiy Zavod), also located near the oil combine, produced machinery for the refineries in addition to agricultural implements, such as seed-drills, harrows, and fertilizer spreaders, all manually operated. No further details were available on this plant.

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5. The town power station (TETS) was located approximately 1.5 - 2 kilometers from the Salavat railroad station, west of the rail line. In addition to supplying power to the refineries and other plants in the vicinity, the power station also provided the domestic current for Salavat and its surroundings. The power station operated on lignite, which was transported by rail from the Kuznetsk coal mines. A new track, providing direct connection between Ufa and Chkalov, was recently constructed between Kuznetsk and Chkalov.

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6. In 1956-1957 a television relay station was established in the vicinity of Salavat, where it occupied a one-story building, 50 x 10 meters in size. A television aerial (Televisyonnaya Vishka), approximately 100-120 meters high, was erected on a neighboring hill. No further details were available on this station.

7. The Salavat area contained three prison camps, which were subordinate to the prison camp directorate of the MVD in Ufa. These camps, No. 3, No. 4, and No. 5, were made up of prisoners who had been sentenced to various terms for criminal offenses. There were no political prisoners at these camps. Camps No. 3 and No. 5 maintained a comparatively liberal regime, and the prisoners were allowed to let their hair grow and wear civilian clothes. At Camp No. 4, however, the discipline was severe: the prisoners were not allowed to wear civilian clothes, their heads were shaved, and they worked one hour longer per day than the prisoners in the other two camps.

8. Since 1955 the attitude towards camp inmates had improved, but it still varied according to the prisoners' behavior, productivity, and discipline. The prisoners were allowed to receive a monthly parcel from home and a short monthly visit from members of their families. At six-month intervals, two to three-day family visits

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were also allowed. Weekly movies were introduced and elementary schools established for the illiterate prisoners. In many camps trade courses in metal-work, carpentry, and the like, have also been introduced. Camp conditions were frequently investigated by inspectors from both the Ministry (MVD) and the prison camp directorate.

9. The prisoners were paid for their work and, after the cost of their food and clothing had been deducted, a sum of 120-125 rubles per month was entered into their account, so that they could purchase various commodities at the camp shop.

10. The prisoners could lodge complaints against their superiors to the chief prison camp directorate, the Ministry (MVD) or the Chief Prosecutor of the USSR. Some prisoners even appealed to the Party Central Committee. In every case, the institution concerned would answer immediately and promise to investigate the matter. It had been the practice in recent years to permit the local Party institutions to deal with the complaints of prisoners confined in their areas. The Salavat town Party committee once dealt with a complaint from a prisoner in Camp No. 4, who maintained that his wages were often arbitrarily cut. As a result of the investigation which ensued, the head of the planning department of the camp was dismissed.

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11.

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[redacted] a plant comprising extensive underground installations was established in the Kyshtyn area. The prisoners who were employed underground worked only four hours per day. [redacted]

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[redacted] those who took employment at the plant after its completion acquired a yellow complexion and became invalids. [redacted] These people were withdrawn from the plant and given light work within the closed zone where it was situated. On completing their terms of imprisonment, those who had been employed in the Kyshtyn closed zone were forcibly exiled to Kolyma.

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Personalities

12. The following individuals were prison administrators in the Salavat area:

a. Maj. Akhmetov (fm), an MVD officer, was commander of the special prison camp at Salavat (Spetalager) until 1955, when he was appointed operational representative (Operupolnomochennyi) at Camp No. 5. [redacted]

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b. Maj. Fiedorov (fm), an MVD officer, was deputy commander

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of the special prison camp until 1956, when he was appointed disciplinary officer at Camp No. 4. [REDACTED]

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c. Maj. Morigunov (fmu), an MVD officer, was deputy commander of Camp No. 4. [REDACTED]

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d. Maj. Sayfudinov (fmu) was operational representative at Camp No. 4. [REDACTED]

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e. Lt. Col. Utkin (fmu), commanding officer of Camp No. 4, [REDACTED]

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13. Capt. Borodin (fmu), an MVD officer, was operational representative at Prison Camp No. 226/14 at Ukhta. [REDACTED]

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Attached is a sketch of Salavat and its vicinity.

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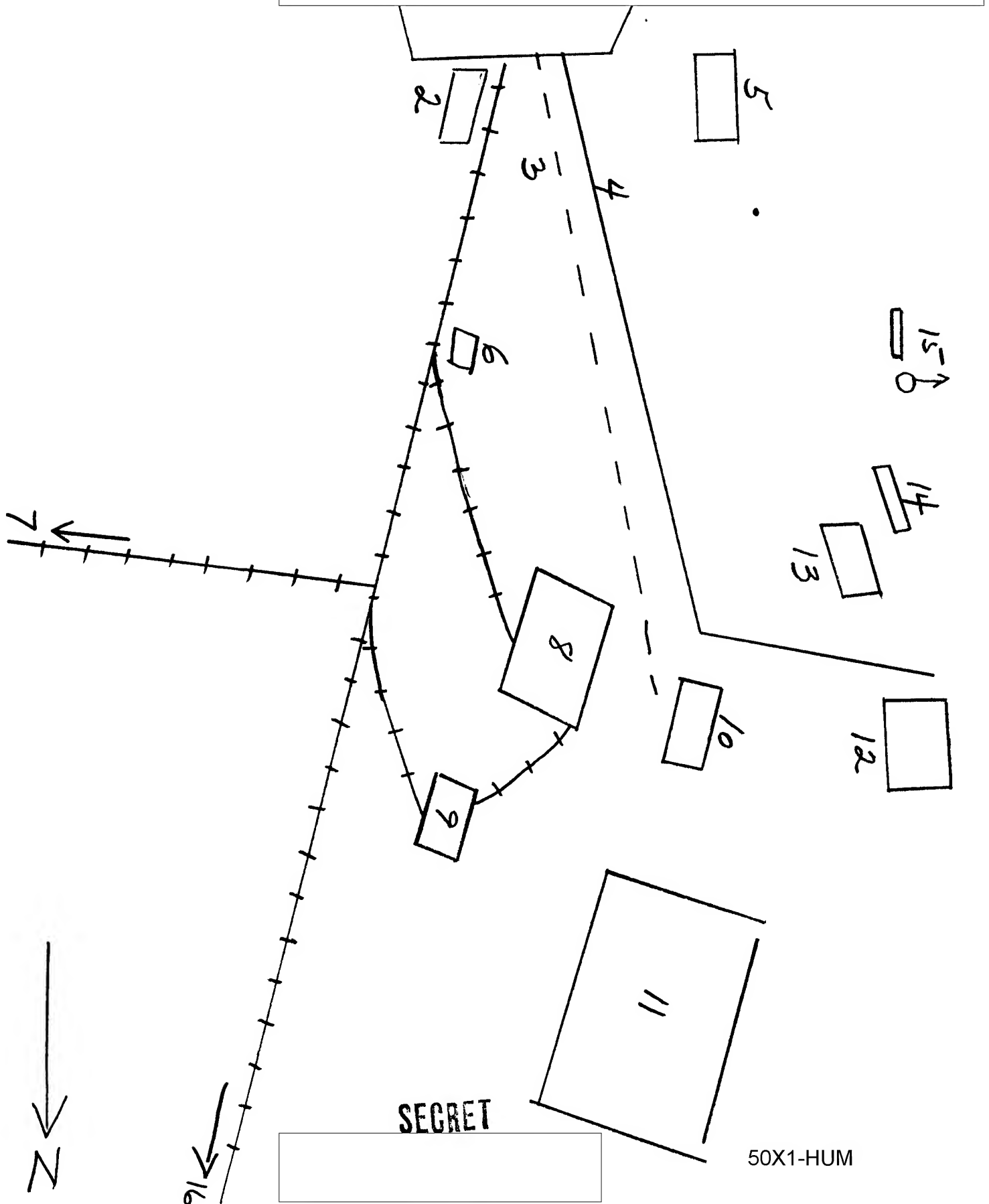
Sketch of Salavat and Vicinity

1. Salavat municipal area
2. Salavat railroad station
3. Trolley line
4. Road
5. Prison camp No. 3
6. Power station
7. Railroad line to Ishimbay
8. Oil combine
9. Oil refinery
10. Machine plant
11. Chemical combine
12. Prison camp No. 5
13. Prison camp No. 4
14. Brick factory
15. Television station and aerial
16. To Ufa

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